

NIDA/SAMHSA ATTC BLENDING INITIATIVE

***To Blend:**

- a. combine into an integrated whole;
- b. produce a harmonious effect

The blending of resources, information, and talent are all goals of a landmark initiative developed in 2001 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The interagency agreement called the NIDA/SAMHSA-ATTC Blending Initiative is designed to meld science and practice together to improve drug abuse and addiction treatment.

This initiative encourages the use of current evidence-based treatment interventions by professionals in the drug abuse treatment field. "Blending Teams," comprised of staff from CSAT's Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network and NIDA researchers, are charged with the dissemination of research results for adoption and implementation into practice.

NIDA has identified specific research practices as ready for use by the field at large. Specifically, each team will develop a strategic dissemination plan for introducing particular research findings using a number of different mechanisms for effective adoption within communities, such as trainings, self-study programs, workshops, and distance learning opportunities.

Harnessing the skills, resources, and knowledge of these two Federal agencies will facilitate moving important scientific findings into mainstream addiction treatment practice. Furthermore, this effort will establish and maintain regional and national partnerships with drug abuse researchers and community-based treatment providers as well as policy makers, stakeholders, and the general public. This NIDA/SAMHSAATTC collaboration is an important mechanism for disseminating recent progress in drug addiction research and forging important linkages. Reaching the frontline people who are providing services to people with substance use disorders is imperative to the success of drug abuse treatment programs throughout the country.

Blending Team 1: Buprenorphine Blending Team

This team has been tasked with developing Buprenorphine awareness training and materials for members the drug abuse and addiction field. The target audience for these materials will be those not receiving training directed for prescribing physicians. This team initially met on October 7-8, 2003 in Los Angeles California, The Pacific Southwest ATTC in Los Angeles is the lead for this project. The Buprenorphine Blending team members are:

NIDA

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Blending Team 2: Addiction Severity Index (ASI) Blending Team

The ASI Team will be working on the development of training materials and products to assist program managers, supervisors, administrators, and policy makers to use the results of the ASI for management and program planning decisions. The ASI Blending Team members are:

NIDA

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